

House Resolution 117

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th, Sheldon of the 105th, Channell of the 116th, Hugley of the 133rd, Gardner of the 57th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing February 1, 2007, as "Community Health Centers Day"; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, federally qualified community health centers located in over 100 medically
3 underserved communities provide high quality primary and preventive health care to 239,000
4 people in the State of Georgia, including the working poor, uninsured, underinsured, elderly,
5 homeless, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations, without regard to income status,
6 cultural or ethnic heritage, or disease conditions; and
- 7 WHEREAS, community health centers bring over \$34 million per year to Georgia
8 communities, recruit and retain excellent health care professionals where they are most
9 needed, and offer access to a wide range of cost-effective medical and dental services and
10 prescription medicines as well as to health education, nutrition counseling, translation
11 services, community outreach transportation, and support programs; and
- 12 WHEREAS, community health centers have a track record spanning four decades of
13 controlling costs, documented in several studies which show that rates of costly emergency
14 room visits, hospitalizations, and specialty care referrals are much lower among health center
15 patients than patients of other providers; and
- 16 WHEREAS, community health centers save the Medicaid program 30 to 33 percent in annual
17 spending per Medicaid beneficiary; and
- 18 WHEREAS, community health centers work in partnership with other health care providers,
19 local hospitals, health departments, social service agencies, and health related support
20 services to maximize resources and assure that services are coordinated to improve the health
21 status of the community; and
- 22 WHEREAS, Georgia's community health centers and the Georgia Association for Primary
23 Health Care have supported President George W. Bush's goal of increasing the number of
24 community health centers in Georgia and across the nation and have taken a leadership role

1 in establishing more centers in underserved communities to help resolve this state's health
2 care access problems, demonstrating commendable efforts in continuous quality
3 improvement, reduction of health disparities among the underserved, the implementation of
4 new health care initiatives such as Medicaid managed care and electronic health records, and
5 utilization of the latest technology to improve both operations and delivery of services to
6 more Georgians; and

7 WHEREAS, community health centers deserve commendation for their valuable
8 contributions in expanding access to health care, their outstanding record of service, and their
9 dedication to improving health care and the health status of all Georgians.

10 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
11 the members of this body recognize the foregoing by designating February 1, 2007, as
12 "Community Health Centers Day."

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
14 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Association for
15 Primary Health Care.